

# CHARLOTTE, N. C. NEWS

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## Our Hero Spies

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In this year of 1965 A.D. in the decade of 007 the world's two greatest powers are frantically at work improving the image of spying. Irony of ironies, despite the glamorous trappings that adorn the world of James Bond, insufficient bright young men are plotting cloak and dagger careers. So universal is this aversion that both the Soviet Union and the United States are at work upgrading the spy.

The Soviet Union broke precedent with the announcement to the Russian people that Colonel Abel was a spy — the Russian people were the only ones left who didn't know — and that he had been decorated. The New York Herald-Tribune retaliated by disclosing that Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot, had received a CIA

medal. The CIA admitted as much but said that Mr. Powers had been asked not to wear it, presumably in keeping with the agency's commitment to secrecy.

Colonel Abel and Mr. Powers enjoy a certain public parity as a result of their dramatic swap in Berlin back in 1962. But without casting aspersions on Mr. Powers' value or bravery, it is still possible to hope that this country has more fitting counterparts to Colonel Abel at work in the Soviet Union today. The clever Soviet colonel actually set up an intelligence ring in the United States and, presumably, divested us of a few military secrets in the process. Our trade of him for Mr. Powers was humane and proper, but Americans have no reason to kid themselves about value received. We traded a spy and got back a pilot.